

Foreword

Despite the significance of the Livestock subsector in its contribution to alleviating poverty and malnutrition amongst vulnerable sections of the community, rural farming systems continue to be inefficient in productivity, feed costs remain high, improved stock are scarce, and available experts are limited. Furthermore the various industries in this sector remain underdeveloped or stagnant. In the Solomon Islands more than 90% of the population keep some form of livestock for obvious reasons including, income, food and social obligations; venture into any community and almost every household has a chicken, hive, duck or pig. On the commercial front there is enormous scope and opportunity for livestock development, which are yet to be re-exploited. Operators in Honiara successfully supply meat and meat products to address domestic demands but these products are largely imported items and cost consumers substantial millions of dollars annually, which could be otherwise spent on locally produced products. The importance of livestock among rural farming families and sections of the peri-urban community, cannot be over emphasized.

This ministry recognises the need for clear objectives and guidelines. For numerous decades livestock development has taken place without clear policy guidelines and strategies. This could be among the main reason of the demise of the subsector itself apart from inefficient planning and management. MAL has learnt also a number of important lessons from previous initiatives, and intends to be more strategic in its plans for subsector revitalization. In 2015 MAL through the department of livestock and veterinary services have commenced developing a policy guideline document, to guide MAL, and other stakeholders in their sincere endeavours to support the development of livestock. It is my conviction that due support – technical and financial - must be accorded to broaden our food security baseline through livestock development.

I strongly believe the development of this policy document is the best first step forward into medium and long term sustainable growth of the livestock subsector and urge every one of us responsible for implementing these policies for their unwavering commitment towards agricultural advancement, food security and improved livelihood for our people. Moreover I would like to strongly emphasize that this policy document can only be truly meaningful if its implementation consequently reaches and benefits the many rural families scattered throughout our Islands. I am therefore wholeheartedly delighted to present this *Livestock Policy Guideline 2015 – 2020* to MAL staff, stakeholders and farmers at large

Honourable Augustine Mae'ue Auga (MP)

Minister

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

Acknowledgement

The development of this policy guideline has taken a lengthy timeframe to finalize. This is so that roles and functions of the department, every challenges, constraints, strengths weaknesses, opportunities and threats regarding the livestock industry can be adequately studied, understood, and incorporated in a clear and appropriate manner. The invaluable contribution of everyone involved in contributing ideas and thoughts, including MAL staff, stakeholders, private sector NGOs, farmers, and private sector has culminated in the development of the Livestock Policy Guideline is sincerely acknowledged . The Directors, Chief field officers, Senior field officers, Provincial field officers of MAL, farmers, meat wholesalers and retailers, importers, butcher shop operators and those who have contributed meaningfully to the development this policy guideline, note without your support it would be difficult to fully understand and capture the different perspectives and accord the appropriate policy interventions to address the many issues we all face in the different works and business we engage ourselves in relating to livestock development. I sincerely thank you all for your contributions to the development of the “Livestock Policy Guidelines 2015 – 2019”.

Jimi Saelea

Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

Executive Summary

Livestock is a significant and integral component of the livelihood of families and communities of this country for many centuries. When the first Islanders came to inhabit this archipelago, they brought with them pigs and poultry which they used as an alternative means of deriving their livelihood. Livestock is a significant pathway out of poverty, a means of alleviating malnutrition, a source of rural income and means for livelihood improvement for many rural families in the Solomon Islands. In the vastly rural based population (80%) more than 90% of the people keep some form of livestock to derive their livelihood from. Cash incomes from sales of livestock are usually used to pay for school fees, medical fees, and other social obligations. With the overarching goal of food security and enhancing livelihood improvements it is imperative a set of clear policy guidelines are important regarding the roles and functions of DLVS, and the manner the various livestock industries are developed and supported both financially and technically.

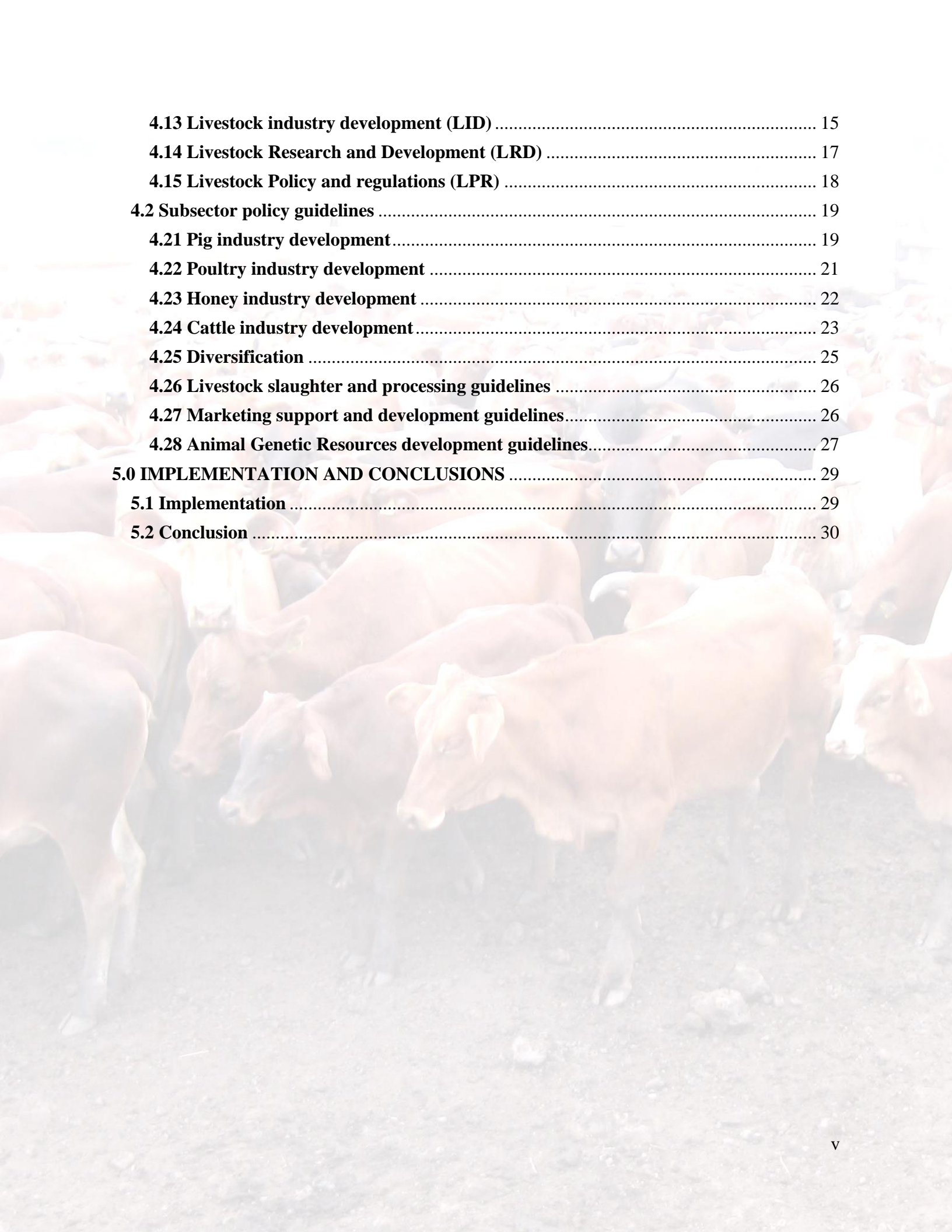
This document is the “**Livestock Policy Guideline 2015-2020**”, it is based on the departments’ commitment with other stakeholders towards implementing the incumbent governments policy objectives and farmer demands through (i) **Promoting effective livestock and veterinary services:** - to ensure all functional obligations are clear and conducted without doubt, and the resources and capabilities required to effectively provide livestock and veterinary services are adequate and accordingly made available. (ii) **Livestock subsector and industries support and development:** - to promote industry development through supporting both small-holder livestock farming and commercial livestock resilient development, improved slaughter, processing and marketing for food safety and quality assurance, taking into account climate change adaptation and disaster risk management measures.. This policy document is for the benefit of all farmers, processors, retailers, consumers, service providers, stakeholders, and MAL personnel involved livestock industry development

Strong inter-linkages within MAL departments, and all stakeholders are crucial for the effective implementation of these guidelines and for achieving food security and improved livelihoods. The contents of this document are subject to review when is necessary and appropriate in relation to the extent of domestic animal health and production and the overall capacity of DLVS to undertake its roles and functions effectively. Moreover this document must adapt to the changes and developments evolving in the livestock industry and relevant sectors around it

Livestock remains important in the livelihood of the national population therefore MAL and DLVS pledge to take the lead, guided by this policy document with the support of all stakeholders, to develop the livestock subsector to ensure economic growth, rural development, food security and livelihood improvements for all peoples.

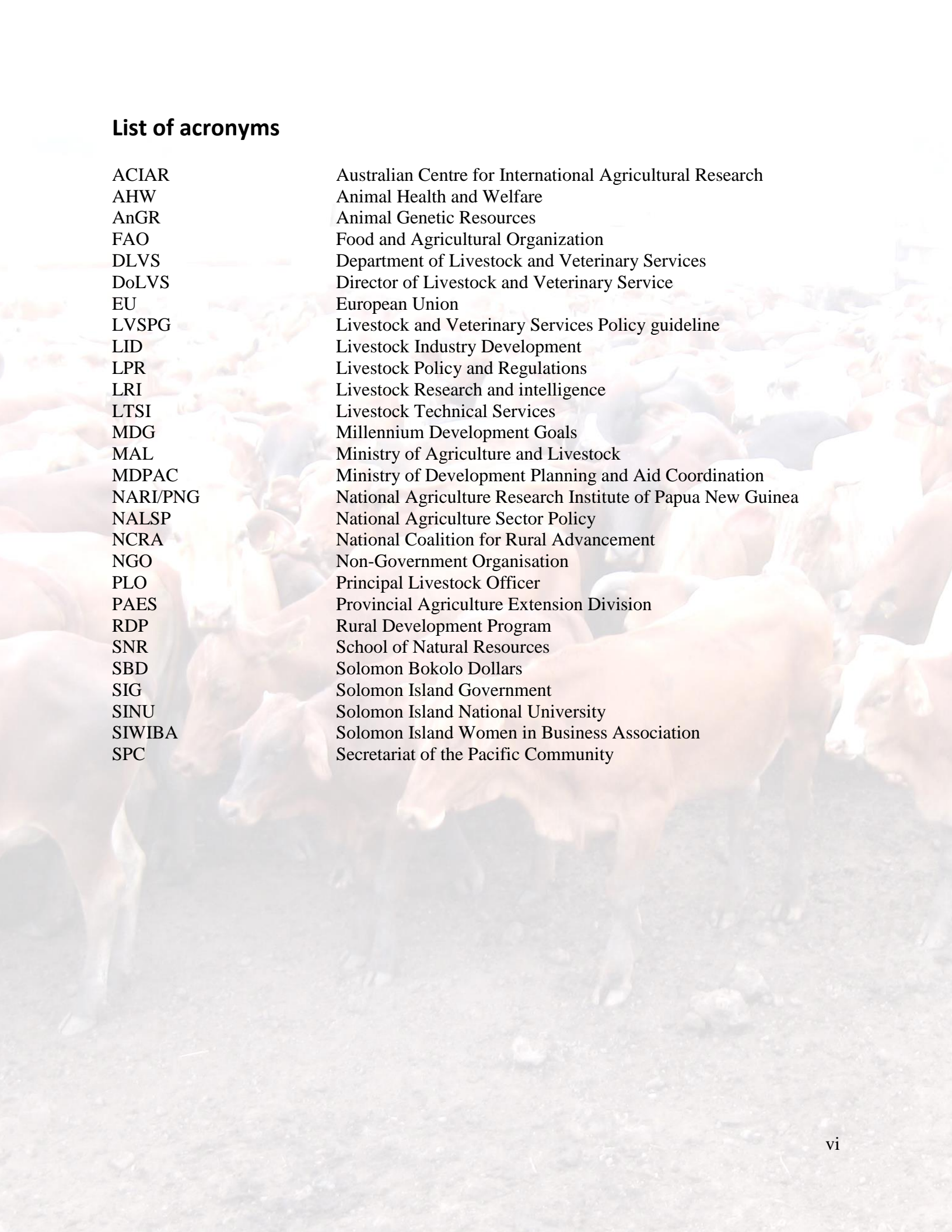
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List of acronyms



ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
AHW	Animal Health and Welfare
AnGR	Animal Genetic Resources
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
DLVS	Department of Livestock and Veterinary Services
DoLVS	Director of Livestock and Veterinary Service
EU	European Union
LVSPG	Livestock and Veterinary Services Policy guideline
LID	Livestock Industry Development
LPR	Livestock Policy and Regulations
LRI	Livestock Research and intelligence
LTSI	Livestock Technical Services
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MAL	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
MDPAC	Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination
NARI/PNG	National Agriculture Research Institute of Papua New Guinea
NALSP	National Agriculture Sector Policy
NCRA	National Coalition for Rural Advancement
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
PLO	Principal Livestock Officer
PAES	Provincial Agriculture Extension Division
RDP	Rural Development Program
SNR	School of Natural Resources
SBD	Solomon Bokolo Dollars
SIG	Solomon Island Government
SINU	Solomon Island National University
SIWIBA	Solomon Island Women in Business Association
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community

A large herd of cattle, primarily brown and white, is gathered in a field. The cattle are densely packed in the background, with some individuals more clearly visible in the foreground. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. The text is overlaid on the middle of the image.

.....blessed all our people and all our lands with your prospering hands.....

1.0 GENERAL BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

Livestock is a significant and integral component of the livelihood of communities of this country for many centuries. When the first Islanders came to inhabit this archipelago, they brought with them pigs and poultry which they used as an important means of deriving their livelihood. For instance pigs have a significant traditional value for it is used in many traditional and customary occasions including disputes settlement, compensation, and other ceremonies. The village chicken are found around in almost every households in rural villages and peri-urban communities where almost 90% of the rural population keeps an average of 3 chickens per household for food and income. Honey is now recognized for food security and also for its medicinal properties and potential for export. In the last five years beef cattle have also gained importance because of its increasing per capita consumption and increasing import of the beef meat.

Livestock is a significant pathway out of poverty, a means of alleviating malnutrition, a source of rural income and means for livelihood improvement for many rural families in the Solomon Islands. In the vastly rural based population more than 90% of the people keep some form of livestock to derive their livelihood from. Cash incomes from sales of livestock are usually used to pay for school fees, medical fees, and other social obligations. Livestock have now extended beyond the gift and cash purpose into an item of barter in many communities, and have a significant bearing on the village social and economic advancement. Livestock farming is a way of life for many households in our rural and peri-urban communities. Meat especially poultry beef and pork cuts have become main alternatives or supplement to fish for dietary protein requirements. In the last decade however, domestic livestock production has declined owing to many factors some of which include; years of social, ethnic and political unrest, disasters, disease incursion, lack of starting or breeding stock, high feed costs and lack of starting cash.

These features of the livestock subsector sector emphasize the need for clear cut policies and strategies that will guide effective livestock and veterinary services and developments to rural farming families and the subsector as a whole, taking into account mitigation measures against negative impact of climate change and natural disasters. Furthermore to support the department of livestock and veterinary services (DLVS) to effectively execute functions mandated to it.

This document contains policy guidelines for effective livestock and veterinary services and livestock subsector developments. The following policy guidelines are founded on the departments' commitment (i) to serve all people participating at levels and form of production, marketing and processing of livestock (ii) to effectively execute its roles and functions, and its legislative obligations, and (iii) to work towards achieving incumbent, Democratic Coalition for

Change Government's (DCCG) objectives, MALs corporate objectives, and the department's strategic goals and objectives using staff, facilities, and resources available at its disposal.

2.0 POLICY INTRODUCTION

2.1 Title

The title of this document is the: **"Livestock Policy Guideline 2015 -2019"**

2.2 Purpose and focus

With the over-arching goal of food sovereignty and improving rural livelihoods, existing national development goals, MAL corporate objectives and departmental strategies the purpose of this policy document is to provide guidelines for the DLVS in

- i. Effectively carrying out its roles and executing its functions, utilizing the budget, resources, facilities and personnel available to it,
- ii. Supporting the development in priority areas of the livestock subsector and the specific industries.
- iii. Securing recurrent and medium term development budgets to support its operations and subsector development activities
- iv. Best practice" implementation of programs by government, private sector and non-government organization and all stakeholders that promote livestock development and mitigate impact of climate change and natural disasters.
- v. Ensuring that development strategies are efficiently and consistently implemented without doubt, and in compliance with existing and related policies and strategies, legislations, and acts regulating animal health and production practices and developments.

The activities and programs therefore of the Department Livestock and Veterinary Services (DLVS) focus on three main fronts. These include

- (i) Augmenting small holder capacity to produce disaster resilient livestock for food and income
- (ii) Promote commercial scale livestock industry development and
- (iii) Staff capacity and skills strengthening.

To enable the Ministry of agriculture and livestock (MAL) through the department of livestock and veterinary services (DLVS) and other stakeholder and services providers to effectively address these three main areas and progress livestock development, clear policies guidelines are a prerequisite.

2.4 Vision

The Livestock subsector vision comprises;

Working together for a robust, productive and sustainable livestock sector, food security, improving livelihoods and economic stability to meet the needs of all people in the Solomon Islands.

2.5 Mission

The mission of DLVS is;

To empower communities, smallholders and commercial livestock enterprises for livestock development in an environmentally friendly way, strengthen partnerships, and deliver quality livestock and veterinary services.

2.6 Policy considerations

The main considerations taken by this policy include;

- i. The opportunities and constraints surrounding the livestock industries and the market potentials and increasing demands as reflected in increasing import volumes and costs of meat and meat products.
- ii. The stagnant and low production especially in the poultry (meat and egg), beef, honey, and pork sectors and the need to improve genetic potentials of locally available stock for increased production performances.
- iii. The entry of uninspected locally produced meat into the market and food chain due the lack of slaughter facilities for hygiene and humane slaughter of livestock for food and the risk on human health
- iv. The need to provide quality livestock and veterinary services and therefore the need to develop animal health and welfare facilities and capabilities, to support strong animal health and welfare programs.
- v. The high cost of commercial stock feed and the potential to develop feed rations using locally available feed ingredients.

- vi. The need to develop, conserve and manage our important animal genetic resources (e.g. village poultry and feral pigs) which are vulnerable to unplanned interbreeding and hence loss of desirable hardiness and fitness traits.
- vii. The need to develop and train human resources to carry out livestock and veterinary services work to the farming community and become agents and catalysts for growth in the livestock sector.
- viii. The importance of facilities for research, animal health and production, breeding at farmer level or MAL property is taken into account for purposes of technology adoption and dissemination and also bulking and distribution.
- ix. The need to consider the impacts of land-use decisions and the need to ensure sustainable utilization and conservation of natural resources, protection of the environment, increase resilience to natural disasters and successful adaptation to climate change in many Island communities.
- x. The visible increasing indications of poverty, malnutrition, non-communicable diseases and zoonosis, and the need for one health initiatives

2.7 Policy principals

The Livestock Policy Guideline is guided by the following principles;

- i. **Promote DCCG overall goals and objectives:** Uphold and compatible to DCCG policy goals and medium to long term plans.
- ii. **Environmentally friendly and profitable:** Developments in the Livestock sector must be environmentally friendly, profitable and sustainable, promote food sovereignty, pure food, and enhance livelihoods and household performances.
- iii. **Promote resilient, sustainable and inclusive development** that is better able to cope with changes in climate and the environment and is able to withstand disasters.,
- iii. **Promotes and embraces cooperation amongst stakeholders:** Livestock development is fostered and based on cooperation with relevant stakeholders, development partners, Non-Government Organizations (NGO), communities and farmers.

- iv. **Fair and equitable distribution development to every province:** Equitable distribution of resources and developments, through strategic development approaches.
- v. **Transparency and accountability;** Transparent implementation of programs and projects where progress shall be duly reported documented and made available for public scrutiny.
- vi. **Farmers and industry driven:** Development is based on the demands of rural farmers and industry demands hence taking a bottom up approach and that DLVS facilitates and provides an enabling environment for investor participation.
- vi. **Holistic development of farm livestock, farmer and service provider:** Livestock development is based holistic development of livestock, farmers, and the services provider, encouraging developments to fulfil their potential.
- vii. **Consideration and empathy:** That development must be facilitated in respect of culture, gender, and creed, where equal opportunities for all must be promoted.

2.8 Policy Linkages

This policy guideline is linked to other policy and strategy documents including;

- i. The Democratic Coalition for Change Government policy goals and objectives.
- ii. The Solomon Island Government National Agriculture and Livestock Sector Policy 2009-2014 (NALSP 2009-2014).
- iii. The Solomon Island Government Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Corporate Plan 2011-2014.
- iv. The Solomon Island Government Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Action Framework Corporate plan 2011 – 2014.
- v. The Solomon Island Government Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Annual Work Plan, 2012.

- vi. The Pure food act No 4 of 1996, the Agriculture Bio-security Bill and other related quarantine legislation.
- vii. Ministry Development Aid Planning and Coordination (MDPAC) National Development Strategy 2011 – 2020
- viii. Law of the Solomon Islands (Edition 1996) Chapter 41 Livestock development Authority

3.0 SOLOMON ISLAND LIVESTOCK SUB-SECTOR CURRENT STATUS

3.1 Department of Livestock and veterinary services

The Department of Livestock and Veterinary Service (DLVS) represents the livestock tier of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL). The DLVS headquarters in Honiara is located along the Hibiscus Avenue opposite the MAL Headquarters. It is one of the technical departments of MAL. DLVS is given the mandate to lead, plan, facilitate, support and implement the development strategies of the livestock industry together with other stake holders including the private sector and non-state actors and farmers.

DLVS currently has five main sections which represent its core functions. These include, *Livestock policy and planning*, *Livestock Technical Services*, *Livestock Industry Development*, *Livestock Research*, and *Animal Health and Welfare* which are headed by deputy directors respectively. The *Policy and Regulation section* is headed by the director of livestock and veterinary services (DoLVS).

The departments' current staffs comprise a director, four deputy directors and sixteen provincial livestock officers (PLO) posted in Honiara and the nine provinces (Central, Choiseul, Guadalcanal, Isabel, Makira, Malaita, Temotu, Rennell and Bellona, and Western). PLO are part and partial of the Provincial Agriculture Extension Services (PAES), they report directly to the Chief Field Officer of the PAES and implement PAES livestock development plan which is consistent with DLVS and PAES work plans.

DLVS will operate with an annual recurrent budget of SBD \$2,603,172.00 and a development budget of over SBD 11 million (cattle development program and honey development program) in 2015. In 2015 the main livestock program comprises, provincial staff support, small livestock support, national cattle development, national honey development, feed trials and replications for

small livestock (MAL/NARI/EU) and disaster recovery for the April 2014 flash flood victims in Honiara.

3.2 Department roles and functions

The roles and functions of DLVS are focused on augmenting client capacity to produce, process and market more and better quality products of livestock origin. DLVS recognizes the need; to provide effective livestock and veterinary services to its clients, to maintain a favourable animal health status, to facilitate investments in large scale commercial livestock developments to conduct research into appropriate technologies and farming systems and other areas demanded by farmers and the industry, and establish policies and regulations that will foster and promote livestock development, food sovereignty and livelihood improvements.

In this regard;

The roles of DLVS include

- i. **Facilitate and create an enabling environment for participation:** Facilitate private sector interests compatible to existing policies in industry development initiatives
- ii. **Providing technical support to all its clients and farmers:** Render technical support to government executives and leader, farmers and the interested public.
- iii. **Providing strategic and targeted input support:** Providing and facilitating resources assistance in the form of farm inputs for livestock development.
- iv. **Leading in the revitalization of declining industries:** Taking the first steps in implementing development for revitalizing declined industries e.g. cattle, and honey.

The functions of DLVS include;

The DLVS therefore comprise five sections or core function areas including

- i. **Livestock Technical Service and Information (LTSI):** Provide technical support and services to all clients and farmer at all levels of farming – subsistence to commercial scale, in animal health, production, processing, disaster risk management and marketing
- ii. **Animal health and welfare (AHW):** Provide animal health and Welfare services, including disease surveillance for national animal health and disease status and early detection of zoonosis, and promote production practices and standards for animal welfare.

- iii. **Livestock industry development (LID):** Promote an enabling environment and facilitate for industry strengthening and private sector investments in commercial livestock developments, small-holder production, slaughter, processing, and marketing facilities and access developments, taking into account disaster risk reduction practices.
- iv. **Livestock Research and development (LRD):** Research into systems and technologies which increase production, improve productive performance and resilience against natural disaster and climate change and providing such information to MAL extension services and stakeholders.
- v. **Policy and regulations (P&R):** Provide clear cut policies for operations and subsector support, strategies for livestock development and uphold and update existing regulations of livestock and veterinary services.

3.3 Livestock Sub-sector

The main livestock industries are pigs, poultry, cattle and honey. SIG and MAL efforts and resources are currently focused on the four listed industries. It is generally realized that production in these sectors is stagnant or declining. On the other hand annual imported meat products of porcine, avian, and bovine origin have increased (200-500 metric tonnes excluding canned meats), while honey production has greatly declined over the last 5 years. The general decline in production of domestic livestock for food has stemmed from reasons including, lack of high performing stock and stock source, limited capital and finances to revive existing farming systems, lack of proper slaughter facilities, high feed prices and others.

Farming is small-holder based where small farm units produce livestock for the food industry and raised income for the family. Commercial cattle systems include the Taiwan Technical mission Piggery, Dala Commercial Piggery, Tongs Poultry Farm and Solfish Livestock Centre. These systems operate on a commercial scale in Honiara and produce for the domestic market. Although cattle, poultry and honey are popular; because of its traditional value pigs are the most important livestock in the Solomon Islands.

Environment issues such as possible land degradation (overgrazing); deforestation (for fodder cultivation), water resources availability, air, soil and water pollution and potential loss of locally adapted animal genetic resources will be taken into consideration.

3.31 Cattle

Cattle development is a major government program. In the last five years owing to high domestic demand for beef (812 59 tons imported), low beef production locally, declining cattle population, and high import costs DLVS has implemented a SIG funded National Cattle Development Program

to increase and improve local production. In 2011 and then 2013 over 900 cattle have now been landed (450 each on Guadalcanal and Malaita) as an approach to developing the local cattle population. It is envisaged these stock will be the basis for increasing cattle numbers and beef production locally. At the present time two properties including Gonokukufo (Malaita) and Tenavatu (Guadalcanal) have each now been developed to 400 hectares of pastures and cattle facilities. A third property; Ilolo, in the western province has now been planted to 500 hectares of pasture and awaiting fence and facilities completion.

3.32 Pig

The pig industry is based on small-holder pig farmers scattered around the main centers including Honiara, Auki and Gizo where lucrative markets exist. Carcasses are generally sold to restaurants and food outlets in these centers. The potential for development in the pig industry is enormous as the demand for pork during custom feasts, weddings, and seasonal occasions (Easter, Christmas etc.) obviously increase by the year. In the rural communities the local pig is the more appropriate type owing to its hardiness and ability to thrive under extreme local conditions and low care systems. There is potential for development of rural disaster proof pig systems as there special demand in Honiara for these. Monthly shipments of 50-100 village pigs from Temotu reflect these demands. The pig industry is by far the most important industry because of the traditional value of pigs.

3.33 Poultry

The poultry industry like the pig sector is based on small-holder commercial type units (50-100 birds broilers or layers) existing in Honiara and the main provincial centres including Auki and Gizo. MAL records indicate over 419,000 fertile eggs are imported annually for the broiler and layer poultry industry. There is a lucrative market for poultry meat and egg in Honiara and the main provincial centers and larger commercial systems would be viable. There are two main distributors of day old chicks operating from Honiara these include Quality hatchery and Vuvula Hatchery. The village poultry industry although given very little attention in terms of funding support by the MAL and stakeholders the village chicken is rapidly gaining popularity. Because the village chicken is easy to acquire and that it is a hardy bird more than 80% of the rural population, it is estimated rely on village chickens as an alternate source of income and protein. There is great opportunity to promote this bird owing to its high demand amongst indigenous and Asian communities in Honiara. However popular the village chicken remains low in production hence require improvements in genetic potential, nutrition and disaster risk management practices

3.34 Honey Bee

Honey has a great potential for enhancing rural livelihood and export earnings. Local honey is known for its pure and high quality as bees collect nectar from the lush rain forests of the Islands.

The presence of the Asian bee (*Apis cerana*) has caused a major decline in domestic honey production. With increasing demand for honey, improved apiary management against Asian bees gradual improvements in production have been realized especially amongst Malaita and Guadalcanal farmers. MAL is currently implementing a national honey development programme with the aim of importing 100 queen bees from reputable sources in Western Australia to boost honey production in local apiaries. This initiative is taken to improve the genetic potential of the bee colonies and increase production of honey.

3.35 Other species and diversification

The role of other species and the relevance of diversification is recognized, hence MAL shall render its technical and resources support to evaluate the potential of the demand for the development of species including, goats, sheep and dairy cattle. Goats and dairy cattle have been farmed locally in the past under small-holder conditions. These species have been generally successful regionally e.g. Fiji and PNG and could be again trailed under well planned programs. Interest in Fiji Fantastic sheep has increased and the potential of sheep will be evaluated against the presence of blue tongue virus. While sheep may have a potential in the Solomon Islands the presence of blue tongue virus warrants caution in this area. Sheep are the natural host of this disease while cattle are important reservoirs (Epstein and Martin 1997). Proper investigation hence is required to ascertain the extent of this disease.

3.36 Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR)

AnGR present at the current time include breeds of, beef cattle, pigs (exotic breeds), wild pigs (*Suis papuanensis*), exotic poultry species (meat or egg birds), village chickens (*Gallus gallus*), Wild Santa Cruz fowls, goats (Feral origin, and improved crosses), and honey bees (*Apis mellifera*). It is generally accepted that the first livestock for food (pigs and chicken) were introduced by the first inhabitants of the islands and also by early European explorers and missionaries. Other Livestock (Cattle, goats, exotic pigs, exotic poultry and honey bees) were later introduced through government development projects. Over many years these breeds have adapted to the extreme local environmental conditions. In the Santa Cruz Group wild fowls exist in small populations with the risk of extinction if not managed. The village chicken (*Gallus gallus*) known for its general hardiness is kept by many families and has become an important basis for livelihood improvement. The wild pig (*Suis papuanensis*) has feral populations in the Islands, although its domesticated form is popular in many rural societies, these are often crossed with exotic types as an attempt to improve production performances. There are exotic pigs raised under small-holder commercial type systems around the main provincial centres and Honiara. However the existence of these AnGR there remains no development and conservation plans for these important resources hence this policy inclusion.

3.37 Livestock slaughter, processing and marketing

Livestock for public consumption continue to be slaughtered under questionable facilities without being health checked. This poses enormous health risk for consumers at large. Many processing and retailing facilities are inadequate and require improvements. The Department of Livestock and Veterinary services under these circumstances has encouraged supervised stock slaughtered for public consumption in basic facilities comprising concrete/cemented slabs under clean water. With increasing demand for local meat products local unregulated slaughter will also continue to increase. There exist an urgent need to develop and improve slaughter facilities. DLVS recognises the significance of improving processing, packaging, and marketing capacities with existing operators especially in the main urban centres of Auki, Gizo, Honiara, and Noro. Furthermore to facilitate strategic alliances between market and farms for strong linkages and market access. Hence necessitating policies and strategies which support the development of such facilities and the operations involved. In the same way processed meat must be marketed utilizing proper storage facilities which maintain product quality and food safety.

3.38 Stock-feed

Stock feed especially for pig and poultry and both locally and overseas sourced by-products are extremely expensive. Stock feed form over 70% of production costs in small-holder commercial type operations. Copra meal, Fish meal, spent grains are produced or available locally, mill run is imported and packed locally. At the present time these bi-products (apart from spent grain) are mostly exported overseas to be converted to high density stock feed and exported back into Solomon Islands. It is known in some cases livestock farmers have scaled down production as a direct result of high feed costs. On the other hand, locally available ingredients are abundant in many areas of the Solomon Islands. The potential and opportunity these ingredients present in small-holder and commercial livestock production units cannot be over emphasized. An approach to address limitations caused by expensive commercial feed is to support the development of small – medium scale feed production and formulation, taking into account disaster risk management practices (proofing storage facilities, strategic animal fodder reserves, fodder conservation).



4.0 POLICY GUIDELINES

4.1 Guideline to Roles and Functions

The Department of Livestock and Veterinary Services is mandated to promote and foster growth and development in the Livestock sub-sector. For the provision of effective and quality services clear functional and operational guidelines are a prerequisite. These will allow for understanding in all sections of MAL and DLVS, stakeholders, service providers, development partners, clients

and farmers, the focus of the five core functions of DLVS and how these functional sections should operate

4.11 Livestock Technical Service and Information (LTSI)

Provide technical support and services to all clients and farmer at all levels of farming – subsistence to commercial scale, in animal health, welfare, production, processing, disaster risk management and marketing. The following policy guidelines aim to aid and augment DLVS implement its programs and activities and those of the provincial agriculture extension services.

- i. **Staff training and capacity building:** Ensure that appropriately trained qualified and experienced staff are dispatched to every province to lead in livestock technical support and coordinate livestock development activities.
- ii. **Upgrading of provincial livestock posts:** Pursue as a long term strategy the upgrading of the livestock officer in charge position at provincial level should be at principle livestock officer level with a minimum qualification of bachelor or diploma in animal science, agriculture science or tropical agriculture.
- iii. **Mentoring, preparation and development of cadets:** Provide mentoring and placement training to students of vocational training centres, school of natural resources (SNR), University undergraduate students and cadets
- iv. **Strengthen logistic support and facilities for provincial and field officers:** Provide resources and logistics including OBM engine and canoe, office furniture and computer (sharing with provincial counterparts may apply)
- v. **Farmer training and technology transfer:** Develop and organize training workshop program for different levels of livestock farming and production for each province in consultation with provincial agriculture extension services.
- vi. **Technical support and facilitate livestock and veterinary services for farm development:** Provide technical and professional advice through consultation to all clients on farm establishment and development and other areas of livestock production, excluding developing proposals for funding.
- vii. **Development of livestock and veterinary services technical manuals:** Preparation and development of livestock extension materials on all species including materials. These materials to be distributed to agriculture information services and provincial agriculture extension services.

- viii. **Strengthen networking, linkages and working together with stakeholders and key farmers:** Encourage cooperation with other extension and development agencies and non-government organizations e.g. UNDP, World Vision, Kastom Gaden, Save the children, ADRA , Taiwan technical mission, etc.
- ix. **Develop and implement a livestock technical services program:** With PAES and other service providers develop and implement a strategic livestock extension program, addressing farmer needs from province to province
- x. **Project monitoring and evaluation:** With PAES develop and formalize a project monitoring and evaluation protocol for purposes of reports for project screening process. Note DLVS may endorse development oriented projects but has no obligation to fund projects which do not meet criteria and are not submitted through DLVS processes

Small-livestock support to farming families for livelihood improvements: Support small/household livestock raising activities including women and youth associations and organizations.

4.12 Animal health and welfare (AHW)

This policy aims to strengthen the capacity of DLVS to provide animal health and welfare services including; disease surveillance for national animal health and disease status, active surveillance for early detection of zoonosis, laboratory services, and promote production practices and standards for animal welfare. The animal health and welfare guidelines include;

- i. **Paraveterinary and field epidemiology capacity building and training:** Strengthen MAL staff skills and capacities in animal health, covering areas of field epidemiology, emergency response, and animal welfare. This areas may be covered in the ongoing Para-veterinary training program
- ii. **Preparation and training of earmarked staff for veterinary training:** Support training of selected in-service cadets in veterinary science through scholarship endorsements for regional and international institutions and on the job training placements
- iii. **Improve animal health services through available regional services:** Engage the service of a qualified and experienced veterinarian (Australia, New Zealand or PNG) to undertake specific tasks required by the Department
- iv. **Improve surveillance systems for early detection, prevention and control of pests and diseases:** Develop and support both passive and active surveillance system with local


stakeholders, regional and international agencies for effective communication and response.

- v. **Animal health and disease status updating:** Regular update national animal health and disease status by survey in cooperation with SPC and provide update to OIE using OIE standards.
- vi. **Improve existing emergency response plans:** Develop and review animal health and disease emergency response and preparedness plan and support the advocacy of emergency response and preparedness for animal disease at political level, line ministries, NGOs, private sector and wider stakeholders.
- vii. **Emergency response coordination and communication:** Coordinate emergency response and investigations with PAES to reported incidences and outbreaks of animal disease e.g. Lata Poultry Mortalities and provide regular updates to MAL CEO/PS and Heads of Divisions.
- viii. **Animal health laboratory capacity and capability building:** Support development of an animal health laboratory for basic screening and testing for both purpose of both terrestrial and aquatic animals, and train identified potential cadets for this services
- ix. **Provide technical support with Biosecurity Solomon Islands (BSI) –** Biosecurity risk assessments where required in importation of live animals or animal products in bovine, porcine, poultry/avian, caprine and apis origin from acceptable sources.
- x. **Promote and improve animal welfare capacities in DLVS and MAL:** Promote development of animal welfare strategies and activities to educate and advocate for animal welfare in MAL and the general public

4.13 Livestock industry development (LID)

Promote an enabling environment and facilitate for industry strengthening and private sector investments in commercial livestock developments, small-holder production, slaughter, processing, and marketing facilities and access development, taking into account potential negative environment effect. The LID policy guidelines comprise;

- i. **Facilitate and conduct sectoral assessments of livestock industries:** Support assessment and documentation of the current status of the various livestock industries and the possible way forward for environment friendly revitalisation of declining industries e.g. cattle, honey.

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- ii. **Promote commercial piggery developments on Malaita province.** Pursue development and expansion and improvements (disaster risk management) of the pig industry on Malaita, supporting the MAL/Taiwanese technical mission (TTM) pig development initiatives.
 - iii. **Improve slaughter processing and marketing capacities for food safety and quality assurance:** Support development of livestock slaughter, processing and marketing facilities and capacities on Auki, Gizo and Honiara and to improve quality of locally produced meat.
 - iv. **Improve transport capacities for fresh and frozen livestock products:** Support development of transport (sea and land) capacities for livestock and fresh and frozen meat products
 - v. **Revive the declined honey industry and control Asian bees:** Pursue development budget for National Honey Development program –this program to cover both Apis cerana exposed and unexposed areas.
 - vi. **Improve availability of farm inputs:** Support to also cover local manufacturers and distributors of farm inputs including; hive materials, hive tools, processing equipment and protective gear, stock feed, machinery, drugs and dressings, and other livestock and veterinary tools and equipment. Explore possibilities for duty exemptions.
 - vii. **Promote beef cattle development:** Support beef cattle development on Guadalcanal and Malaita and Western province using SIG development budget and encourage private sector participation. Commercial herds to be established in these provinces.
 - viii. **Promote investor participation in commercial livestock development:** Encourage large scale commercial livestock development through establishment cost sharing in identified items and activities including, stock imports, and tax exemptions on machinery and materials primarily for purpose of livestock development.
 - ix. **Promote development livestock grants and subsidies to key farmers:** Re-introduce subsidy type arrangements (based on cost sharing) as a way of promoting production and supporting and assisting practicing farmers.
 - x. **Government nucleus breeding, multiplication and distribution farm:** A nucleus breeding farm for ruminants and monogastrics must be established on an available land (government

land) preferably on Guadalcanal and be managed by DLVS/MAL for purpose breeding, multiplication and distribution.

- xi. **Promote Temotu local pig industry and trade:** Technical and financial support should be accorded to the development and improvement of the local pig industry in Temotu province. Improvements in shipping and marketing arrangements should be supported.
- xii. **Promote feed development for rural small-holder livestock:** Develop mini-feed meals and rations for rural small-holder type pig and poultry livestock systems. Provinces including Choiseul, Malaita, Guadalcanal, Isabel, and Temotu province should host this development strategy.

4.14 Livestock Research and Development (LRD)

DLVS has established a Research unit as one of its core functions. The unit is mandated to conduct research into systems and technologies which increase production, improve productive performance, reduce disaster impact, as demanded by farmers and the industry, and providing such information to MAL farmers, extension services and stakeholders. The guidelines for LRD include;

- i. **Sectional capacity building for effective services:** Provide necessary support to the officer (Deputy Director Livestock Research and Development) charged with the task of establishing a research unit within DLVS- develop research and development plan.
- ii. **Develop Livestock research and development centre:** Support the establishment and development of a research unit, capacities, and facilities, and acquire land, items, equipment and other resources required for scientific research under this section.
- iii. **Promote scientific research in cooperation with regional research institutions:** Conduct scientific research for improvements in livestock development and productivity in cooperation with regional, international and local institutions. e.g. with ACIAR and NARI., on priority research areas
- iv. **Capacity building for DLVS research team:** Train identified staff and build research skills and capacities to appropriate qualifications in liaison with representatives of agriculture research section and making full use of existing capacity building opportunities- with NARI PNG arrangements.
- v. **Improve information availability and data collation, storage and use:** Monitor and gather update information and data on the extents of domestic production, demands consumption,

processing and packaging, and marketing and import of meat and livestock products. Make this data and information available for MAL, relevant stakeholders and public benefit.

- vi. **User friendly information and research technical reports:** Information and technologies for farm adaptation and application must be documented in layman and understandable language and evaluated and sanctioned by livestock technical committee before dissemination.
- vii. **Establish and promote a livestock technical bulletin for appropriate technologies:** Compile technical bulletins for technologies and information resulting from scientific research, on farm trial and surveys

4.15 Livestock Policy and regulations (LPR)

Provide clear cut policies for operations and subsector support, strategies for livestock development and uphold and update existing regulations of livestock and veterinary services. This core function should be headed by the Director of Livestock and Veterinary Services (DoLVS). The policy guidelines for this core function include;

- i. **Prioritize industries and development programs:** Identifying the priority areas for Livestock and veterinary services development and setting directions for developments.
- ii. **Clear policies and strategies development and planning:** Developing clear medium to long term development policies and strategies for Livestock and veterinary services and livestock industries.
- iii. **Improve budget bids and project documentation for priority industry:** Prepare realistic and project documents, industry development programs, and budget bids for budget submissions
- iv. **Review existing and current animal health and production legislation:** Promote the review or development of relevant legislations for animal production, animal health, welfare, location and slaughter for public consumption, meat inspection, processing and packaging, storage marketing and wet markets, or the *pure food act*.
- v. **Improve legislation on farming near residences and urban land:** Review and improve legislation on farming on peri-urban land. Liaise with environmental health department of the Ministry of health and medical services regarding facilitation of legislations regulating

farming near residential sites, location near water sources for public consumption, and other locations that may be contaminated as result of livestock keeping.

- vi. **Develop and or review legislation to promote quality control and assurance:** including to quality checks on retail shelf meat and products; - *checking temperature specifications for chillers and cold storage of meat and livestock products and quality of products in retail, wholesalers and meat suppliers – pure food act*
- vii. **Strengthen overall coordination of livestock programs.** Provide guidance oversight and quality control in implementation of livestock programs and activities to ensure that expected outcomes are achieved.
- viii. **Improve progress reporting and monitoring and evaluation:** Report and update heads of division and Ministry executives (Permanent secretary and Minister) on the progress, challenges in the livestock subsector in relation to listed development programs.

4.2 Subsector policy guidelines

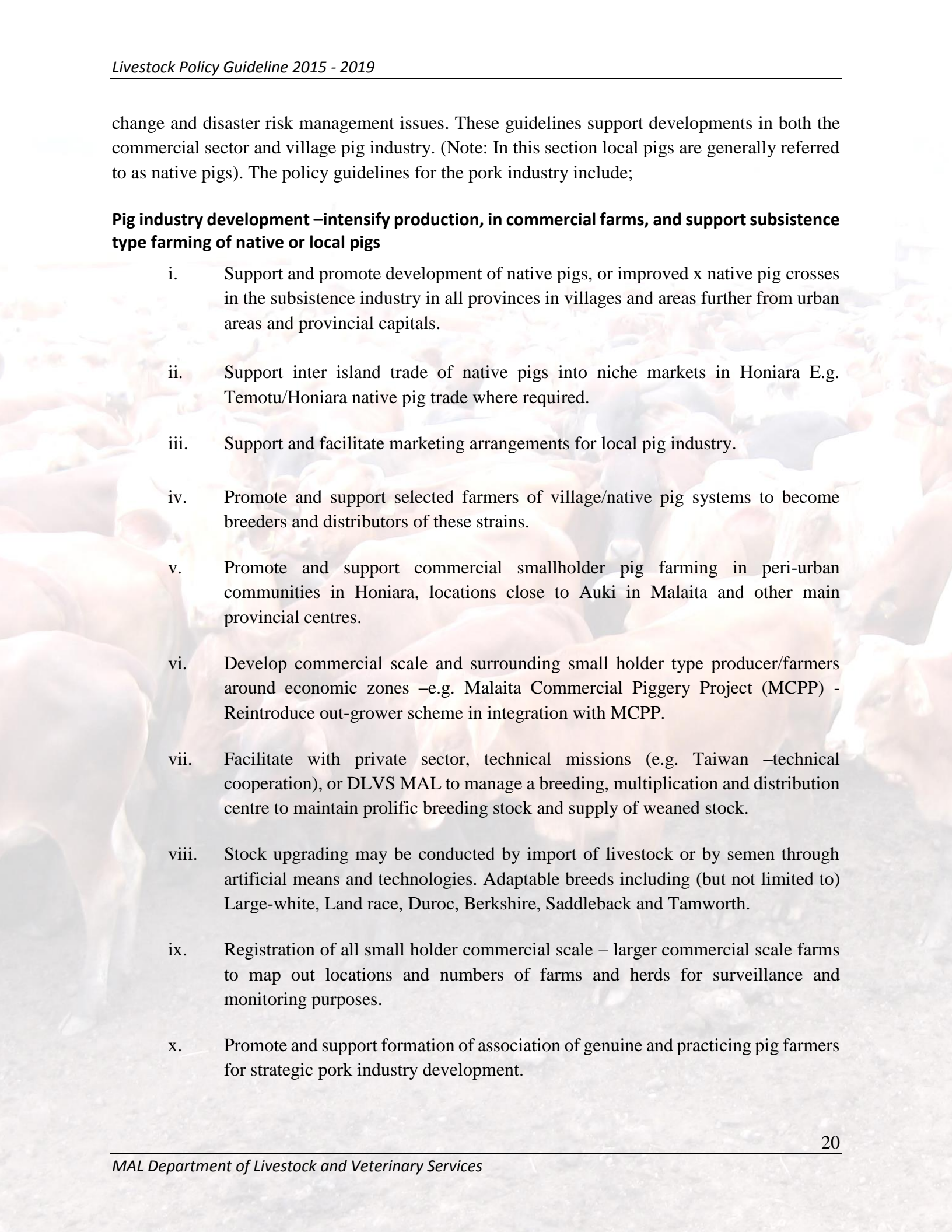
The priority industries for livestock development include pork, poultry, honey and cattle, although there remains opportunities for diversification into goats, sheep and other livestock. DLVS also recognizes the significance of animal genetic resources (AnGR) in the development of the livestock subsector, food security and livelihoods and intends to place some guidelines into developing this sector. The four main industries are generally characterized by either limited growth or decline in production owing to several factors. Some of the main constraints to production include lack of starting and rehabilitation capital, lack of high producing stock, inbreeding, high feed costs, low investor confidence, low SIG budget support for subsector development, unavailable industry information and baseline data, competitive and destructive type species (Asian bees; *Apis cerana*). DLVS intends to focus on the revitalization of these four main industries and developing the supporting sectors including, slaughter, processing, and marketing, taking into account disaster risk management measures and environmental issues. However, this does not limit or prevent investors to develop other industries that have relevance to the general promotion of food security and enhancement livelihoods, therefore objectives of SIG and MAL. The following policies form a guideline for MAL, Farmers, NGOs, Development Agencies and Partners, other stakeholders and investors development support.

4.21 Pig industry development

The pig industry policy sets guidelines for the implementation of strategies and activity plans which will augment the capacity of farmers at all level of production, marketers and processors to increase pork production and improve product quality, taking into account environment, climate

change and disaster risk management issues. These guidelines support developments in both the commercial sector and village pig industry. (Note: In this section local pigs are generally referred to as native pigs). The policy guidelines for the pork industry include;

Pig industry development –intensify production, in commercial farms, and support subsistence type farming of native or local pigs

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- i. Support and promote development of native pigs, or improved x native pig crosses in the subsistence industry in all provinces in villages and areas further from urban areas and provincial capitals.
 - ii. Support inter island trade of native pigs into niche markets in Honiara E.g. Temotu/Honiara native pig trade where required.
 - iii. Support and facilitate marketing arrangements for local pig industry.
 - iv. Promote and support selected farmers of village/native pig systems to become breeders and distributors of these strains.
 - v. Promote and support commercial smallholder pig farming in peri-urban communities in Honiara, locations close to Auki in Malaita and other main provincial centres.
 - vi. Develop commercial scale and surrounding small holder type producer/farmers around economic zones –e.g. Malaita Commercial Piggery Project (MCP) - Reintroduce out-grower scheme in integration with MCP.
 - vii. Facilitate with private sector, technical missions (e.g. Taiwan –technical cooperation), or DLVS MAL to manage a breeding, multiplication and distribution centre to maintain prolific breeding stock and supply of weaned stock.
 - viii. Stock upgrading may be conducted by import of livestock or by semen through artificial means and technologies. Adaptable breeds including (but not limited to) Large-white, Land race, Duroc, Berkshire, Saddleback and Tamworth.
 - ix. Registration of all small holder commercial scale – larger commercial scale farms to map out locations and numbers of farms and herds for surveillance and monitoring purposes.
 - x. Promote and support formation of association of genuine and practicing pig farmers for strategic pork industry development.

- xi. Provide update base line information and data of the extent of the pig industry, production practices, production volumes, import volumes and domestic consumption, marketing and opportunities and constraints regarding industry development.

4.22 Poultry industry development

This policy guideline therefore takes into account existing constraints and limitations in both the village and commercial poultry industry and aims to guide and stimulate increased production at all levels. It sets out to strengthen the capacity of the operators in the industry (commercial and village sectors) to increase production, improve capacities in processing, packaging, storage and marketing ensuring that best, disaster risk resilient practice is adopted and resulting in best quality products. The policies for the poultry industry include;

Poultry industry – Intensify meat and egg production from village strains and exotic breeds, improve product quality and value adding.

- i. Promote and support development of the village poultry (chicken and duck) industry commencing first in areas and villages furthest from Honiara and provincial centres. Support to farmers to be in the form of materials, tools and equipment and technical advise
- ii. Support and maintain germplasm for different breeds and phenotypes for breed developments and distribution with existing rural poultry farming systems. Selection and breeding may be conducted by DLVS or support may be given to suitable operators who willing to work in corporation with DLVS towards village chicken improvement
- iii. Promote and support commercial smallholder chicken farming with private sector involvement around Honiara and provincial centers. Support will be given to farms operating as out growers around urban centers.
- iv. Facilitate development of large scale commercial poultry production in meat and egg production.
- v. Facilitate development of large commercial scale producers on Guadalcanal. MAL/DLVS to provide support and incentives in the form of tax exemptions of stock, equipment, machinery and feed which will be used directly in production of chicken meat or egg. MAL/DLVS play a facilitating role of securing suitable land areas for such intensive operations

- vi. Support by technical and resources support to hatchery operators and fertile egg importers. Provide incentive to hatchery operators in the form of duty exemption in imports of fertile eggs, hatchery equipment and fittings and stock feed
- vii. Poultry farms (both village type and commercial types) be mapped out and registered for monitoring and evaluation purposes.
- viii. Support formation and development of genuine and practicing poultry farmers association for progressive poultry developments.
- ix. Investigate potentials and capabilities for parent stock development in Honiara.
- x. Support formation and development of genuine and practicing poultry farmers association for progressive poultry developments.
- xi. Make available update information and data for decision making in regards to poultry population, extent of production practice and performance, domestic marketing and consumptions, and poultry meat and egg imports.

4.23 Honey industry development

The incursion of Asian Bees (*Apis cerana*) has caused adverse impacts on local honey production. ACIAR/MAL research observes that weak apiaries are the result of both *A. cerana* and weak hive management. In the last 5 years there is evidence of a gradual return to domestic honey production amongst small holder apiarists. There is scope to support improvements in product quality, capacity build known suppliers of hive materials and assist honey buyers and market operators. The following policy guidelines aim to support risk resilient recovery amongst major honey producing apiaries and new apiaries in all provinces.

Honey Industry –Stimulate increase in honey production and improve product quality.

- i. Promote and foster rejuvenation of honey industry through best practice management in all Asian bees infested islands and regions and the rest of the provinces.
- ii. Support genetic improvement of existing bee population through artificial or natural breeding with both imported and existing queen bees.
- iii. Provide resource support to existing and new farmers in all provinces through a honey development program as means of increasing production.
- iv. Support existing association and formation and activities of new association of genuine and practicing bee-keepers.

- v. Give special support to disadvantage communities and households occurring in suitable locations for small-holder honey production. Disadvantage areas include resettled communities as result of climate change or natural disasters.
- vi. Promote and support local production of materials, boxes, and frames subsidy type assistance in tools and equipment for preparation of hive and box materials of DLVS/MAL acceptable standards and measurement.
- vii. Support service providers to stock equipment supplies-to improve availability of hive tools and equipment and provide incentives in the form of exemptions for imported hive tools, and other items not manufactured locally.
- viii. Give particular support in production, processing and marketing to provinces known for high quality honey (Rennell and Bellona, and Malaita provinces).
- ix. Support information networking and farmer linkages, strengthening linkages between farmers and Solomon Islands national agriculture information systems (SoNAIS) and other service providers including NGOS and buyers.

4.24 Cattle industry development

The cattle policy guidelines supports the revitalization of large scale commercial beef cattle production in a province specific approach and development of smallholder farms around the economic radius of commercial farms. It promotes an environment friendly, holistic approach in the long term outlining support from production to marketing of beef products. The following guidelines support the revitalization of this important industry.

Increase cattle population and beef production and promote improved processing of local beef.

- i. Cattle industry development strategy: Support the re-development of the cattle industry with prior assessment of the current status and possible models for development of and implementable medium to long term cattle strategy.
- ii. Large scale commercial cattle development: Support the development of commercial-scale cattle production and facilitate involvement of the private sector in beef production on strategically located provinces and sites on Guadalcanal, Malaita and Western provinces, to develop a strong foundation for the industry.
- iii. Small-holder cattle development: Support and redevelop small- medium scale cattle farms (under coconut, small-holder open pastures and tethering) for rural communities and

- households closer and around commercial farms and in economic areas on, Guadalcanal plains, Malaita and Western provinces.
- iv. Cattle expansion phase: Small-holder type farms shall be organized and developed around larger commercial herds through a cattle expansion phase.
 - v. Skills and competency building: Support regional on farm training for DLVS cadets and farmers in cattle farm workmanship, animal husbandry and stockman-ship, commercial cattle development and production, in regional farms and facilities e.g. Fiji, PNG and Vanuatu.
 - vi. Investor support: Facilitate and provide an enabling environment for investor involvement in cattle industry and development.
 - vii. Nucleus breeding herd and animal breeding: Develop sources for stock supply and maintain improved blood lines and study the need to develop a breed for local conditions.
 - viii. Promote and support downstream processing, value adding, and marketing of beef and beef products.
 - ix. Provide incentives to importers and distributors of tools, equipment, machinery and fencing material for specific use in pasture and cattle development by way of tax exemptions. Selected importers must be registered as official supplier of cattle items for DLVS/MAL facilitated cattle development.
 - x. Encourage and support private sector and both local and foreign investments on cattle development through cost subsidization of specific items including, stock, semen, quarantine and veterinary requirements.
 - xi. Support cattle tethering for family units in provinces and locations close to market or commercial herds.
 - xii. Monitor and analyse production, pest and disease status of cattle and update
 - xiii. Ensure disaster risk, environment risk and climate change adaptation are taken into consideration (land degradation (overgrazing); deforestation (for fodder cultivation), water resources availability, air, soil and water pollution and potential loss of locally adapted animal genetic resources) in development support decision..

4.25 Diversification

Apart from pigs, poultry, cattle and bees, **goats, ducks, sheep and dairy cattle** are industries which can be evaluated for their potential in both small-holder and commercial scale livestock development. Development can start with pilot projects at smallholder level. Goats and sheep can potentially be developed to become major contributors to livelihood improvement for many rural families and marginalized communities. In the same approach smallholder dairy can be promoted alongside beef cattle areas. Therefore for the purposes of diversification and broadening opportunities for enhancing rural livelihoods and economic development the promotion and development of the named livestock species will be supported, keeping in mind disaster risk and climate change adaptation measures.

Foster development of other livestock industries and systems appropriate for small-holder farming

- i. Promote and foster the development of highly productive tropical goat breeds under coconut.
- ii. Promote ducks, and geese, production in communities with known demographic and poverty issues.
- iii. Evaluate the potential of sheep in the Solomon Islands and the implications of blue tongue virus (already present) for decisions to develop a sheep industry.
- iv. Assess the performance of dairy cattle under small-holder conditions to promote dairy farming under coconuts.
- v. Promote aquaculture systems in weather coastal areas of the main islands where prevailing rough seas exist and limit marine fishing.
- vi. Promote and foster integration of livestock species and aquaculture.
- vii. Train MAL staff and other services providers in farming systems categorized as diversification.
- viii. Support rural and vocational training centers e.g. Don Bosco, with suitable species and with materials in subsidy cost sharing type arrangements and training arrangements for trainer of trainers.
- ix. Encourage and support household and family unit farming through promotion development programs.

4.26 Livestock slaughter and processing guidelines

Livestock for public consumption continue to be slaughtered under questionable facilities without being health checked. This poses enormous health risk for consumers at large. The same can be said of processing and marketing facilities. This policy presents a guideline for slaughter facility and processing improvements; it outlines support to local operators that slaughter, and process meat and meat products.

Improve slaughter and processing facilities for quality assurance of local meat and meat products

- i. Support existing private operators improve facilities for humane slaughter of pigs, poultry, goats and cattle in Honiara and selected key provincial centres.
- ii. Support and strengthen capacity of existing facilities for improved processing, storage and packaging (cross cutting with beef, pork and chicken meat industry) on Malaita and Guadalcanal provinces and other key provinces.
- iii. Support the development of slaughter facility built in conjunction with commercial sale livestock activities e.g. Malaita Commercial Piggery Development on Dala Farm. A slaughter house component must be developed as part of such development project.
- iv. Ensure facilities are certified and accredited to MAL and MHMS. DLVS/MAL to ensure liaison continues with MHMs regarding development of slaughter house.
- v. Facilitate training for meat inspectors, meat packaging and processing operator, butcher shop management in consultation with operators
- vi. Meat product slaughtered under certified and registered premises to bear mark certifying inspection and freedom from diseases and anomalies and fitness for public consumption.
- vii. Support review of legislations and acts (pure food) which govern slaughter of livestock and processing of food for public consumption.
- viii. Support the development and improvement of household processing, packaging and storage capacity.

4.27 Marketing support and development guidelines

The marketing policy is intend to support existing market outlets in Honiara and provincial centers, it takes into consideration rural and wet markets. These guidelines endeavor to improve the capacity of buyers to trade all meat and meat products from livestock. Consideration is given also to strengthen alliances and linkages between farmers and buyers or market outlets

Improve marketing capacity of existing buyers to trade meat and meat products

- i. Improve capacity to retail meat and meat products: Promote improvements in meat and meat products wholesaling and retailing in Honiara and the main townships of Auki, Gizo, Munda and Noro.
- ii. Storage facilities for meat transfer: Support improvements in on-board cold storage facilities on inter Islands ships for frozen carcasses transferred especially to Honiara meat houses.
- iii. Storage facilities on road transport: Support improvements in cold storage facilities on land transport.
- iv. Producer buyer linkages: Promote linkages and alliances amongst and between producers, processors and market outlets.
- v. Domestic demand and supply: Regular monitor and evaluate market demand and supply of meat and volumes of local products relative to imported meats
- vi. Update market and demand information: Provide update information on market and consumers demands for meat and livestock production to stakeholder and private investors.
- vii. Market associations: Encourage formation of market associations at provincial level to promote marketing brands of locally produced and processed meat.
- viii. Local meat promotion: Support a champion promoter of locally produced meat.
- ix. Wet market standards: Develop regulations and standards for preparation and presentation for wet market of products type practices – household broiler sold in Eskies at Central markets in provincial centers and Honiara.

4.28 Animal Genetic Resources development guidelines

The AnGR policy focus on the protection, development and conservation of AnGR that its social, cultural, and economic significance and potentials may be fully released by local communities. Furthermore that these natural resources may be available for useful scientific studies which are of national interest and benefit. This policy encourages the development and regulations which

allow manageable interbreeding and prevention of uncoordinated interbreeding. DLVS/MAL envisages working closely with the conservation department to develop, coordinating and implementing strategies which advocate the conservation of these important natural resources.

Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) Development and Conservation

- i. Current status of AnGR: Monitor regularly the current status of the AnGR in the Solomon Islands and develop an inventory of AnGR, update all stakeholders, and regional and international supporting institution (FAO, SPC and others).
- ii. Development and conservation plan: Formulate and support a development and conservation plan for AnGR of the Solomon Island to protect unique livestock of the Solomon Islands e.g. Village chickens, Santa Cruz fowl, and village chickens, and wild pigs.
- iii. Form and support an AnGR steering committee to screen , monitor and regulate programs which involve capture, and cross breed local breeds (wild pigs, Santa Cruz fowl, and) with introduced or exotic breeds, as means of preventing genetic erosion
- iv. Legislate and regulate activities and programs which involve capture and cross breeding of Santa Cruz wild fowl and native pigs of Tetepare to other exotic or local phenotypes.
- v. Link with other organizations and institutions (both locally and abroad) that already have existing programs that conserve and develop animal genetic resources of the Solomon Islands.
- vi. Support studies and documentation of the phenotypic and genetic characterization of Animal Genetic Resources of the Solomon Islands including Santa Cruz wild fowl, Village chickens, Megapodes of Simbo Island and wild pigs of Tetepare.

5.0 IMPLEMENTATION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Implementation

This policy document is a general guideline to DLVS functions and also to augment and develop the capacity of farmers, processors and retailers, livestock personal, MAL extension agents and other service providers. Equally important it outlines support to the various livestock industries and the livestock subsector itself.

The DLVS will be taking the leading role in coordinating the implementation of this policy guideline. DLVS also recognizes the good work by other stakeholders and service providers in already implementing this policies and will embrace cooperation and working together with the relevant stakeholder as is the current case.

It is recognized that the effective implementation of these policy guidelines and for achieving the subsector vision and development goals, strong inter-linkages are crucial; firstly within MAL departments including, Research, Planning, Extension, Biosecurity and DLVS, then with the relevant stakeholders including;

- Private sector investors, - Fairtrade
- Farmers,
- NGOs – KGA, World Vision, Save the children, SIWIBA
- Commissions – Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Papua New Guinea
- Institutions – Solomon Island National University (SINU), School of Natural Resources (SNR)
- Government Ministries and department– MoFT, MDPAC, MHMS, ME, MID
- Provincial governments
- Regional and international commissions – SPC, FAO, UNDP
- Rural training centres – Saint Martins.

- Regional Research institutions – ACIAR, PNG NARI
- Other relevant stakeholders

5.2 Conclusion

Livestock raising is a way of life for many rural and peri-urban families. This means they will keep livestock for food to survive, for income and or some socio-cultural obligations using both traditional and improved systems. There is potential for commercial scale risk resilient developments in the livestock subsector and there has been the same realization in the business level hence the involvement of business entities in livestock farming e.g. Solfish (Pork), Fairtrade (Beef Cattle), Livestock Development Authority and Levers United Cattle and piggeries in the past. Livestock remains important in the livelihood of the vast population it is the sure way out of poverty and malnutrition prevalent in many rural and peri-urban communities. It is business for farmers and producers, processors, retailers and wholesalers, and consumers. MAL through DLVS pledges to take the lead in developing the livestock subsector to ensure economic growth, rural development, food security and livelihood improvements for all peoples in this vast Island nation.

The contents of this document are subject to review when is necessary and appropriate in relation to the extent of domestic animal health and production and the overall capacity of DLVS to undertake its roles and functions effectively. Moreover this document must adapt to the changes and developments evolving in the livestock industry. Furthermore, so that there remains a desirable compatibility between the Livestock and Veterinary Services Policy guideline 2010 -2015, National Agriculture and Livestock Sector Policy 2009-2014, the Agriculture and Livestock Corporate Plan 2009 2009 and the DCCG objectives. Importantly this document is not limited to MAL DLVS but is purposed for wider usage and alignment of commitments and initiatives by all participating partners in livestock development.

....our nation Solomon Islands stand for evermore.

